



**Written Testimony of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society**

**Supporting House Bill 5625 An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery**

**Public Health Committee – February 23, 2015**

Senator Gerratana, Representative Ritter and distinguished Members of the Public Health Committee, on behalf of the more than 250 orthopaedic surgeons of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society, thank you for the opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 5625 *An Act Concerning the Definition of Surgery*.

It has always been the position of the Connecticut Orthopaedic Society that patients have surgical services provided by the most qualified and highly trained medical providers. Adoption of this definition of "surgery" is an important step in standardizing the term and defining the requirements of surgery for better understanding by the public.

There are several places in the Connecticut General Statutes ("CGS") where the word "surgery" is referenced but not defined. The definition proposed in this bill closely mirrors the American College of Surgeons' definition which was formally adopted by the American Medical Association to support a universal and consistent definition throughout the country to ensure patient understanding and safety. By supporting and ultimately passing this bill, Connecticut would join many other states in codifying "surgery" in their statutes.

Equally important is the clarity this bill would provide to the public in their understanding of the provisions of surgical services and the specific and consistent definition will ensure only those highly trained medical professionals with surgical privileges are practicing to the highest national standards. These standards need to be equally defined in Connecticut and will be with your support for a clear and consistent definition of surgery provided for in this bill.

The orthopaedic surgeons in CT thank you for your serious consideration and we appreciate your time in reviewing our written testimony submission.

Submitted by:

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